

# Action Verbs and Objects

## Teaching

Action verbs often require words that complete their meaning. These words are called **complements**. These complements are direct objects and indirect objects.

A **direct object** is a word or words that name the receiver of the action. It answers *what* or *whom* receives the action of the verb.

Larry tells **stories**. (*What* does Larry tell? *stories*)

An **indirect object** tells *to what* or *whom* or *for what* or *whom* an action is done. Verbs that take indirect objects include *bring, give, make, send, show, teach, tell, and write*.

Larry tells **his friends** stories. (*To whom* does Larry tell stories? *his friends*)

Remember that if the preposition *to* appears before a word, that word is not an indirect object.

**Transitive and Intransitive Verbs** An action verb that has a direct object is called a **transitive verb**. An action verb that does not have a direct object is an **intransitive verb**.

Do not be confused when an intransitive verb is followed by an adverb. A direct object tells *what* or *whom*, while an adverb tells *how, when, where, or to what extent*.

Gina **claps** her hands. (*What* does Gina clap? *hands* Here **claps** is transitive.)  
Colby **claps** loudly. (*How* does Colby clap? *loudly* Here **claps** is intransitive.)

## Identifying Direct and Indirect Objects, and Transitive and Intransitive Verbs

In each sentence, underline the verb or verb phrase. Above each boldfaced word write **DO**, **IO**, or **ADV** for direct object, indirect object, or adverb. On the line to the right, write whether the verb is **Transitive** or **Intransitive**.

- Each of us told the **group** a **story**. \_\_\_\_\_
- Andrea narrated a **tale** of terror and bloodshed. \_\_\_\_\_
- Everyone was listening very **carefully**. \_\_\_\_\_
- Who wrote "**The Pit and the Pendulum**"? \_\_\_\_\_
- Marcus gave **us** a **lesson** in pronunciation. \_\_\_\_\_
- Joe read the **class** a **poem**. \_\_\_\_\_
- Gordon was writing **Katrina** a long **letter**. \_\_\_\_\_
- Anna spoke **indistinctly**. \_\_\_\_\_
- Peter and Al presented a little **skit**. \_\_\_\_\_
- Peter played the **part** of a policeman. \_\_\_\_\_

Lesson  
2**Action Verbs and Objects***More Practice***A. Identifying Direct and Indirect Objects, and Transitive and Intransitive Verbs**

In each sentence, underline the verb or verb phrase. Above each boldfaced word write **DO**, **IO**, or **ADV** for direct object, indirect object, or adverb. On the line at the right, write whether the verb is **Transitive** or **Intransitive**.

1. Louise started that **rumor**. \_\_\_\_\_
2. She told several **classmates** a nasty **story** about her friends. \_\_\_\_\_
3. She was lying **shamelessly**. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Thomas repeated the **tale**. \_\_\_\_\_
5. He told his **friends** a slightly different **version**. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Friends of the victims reacted **angrily**. \_\_\_\_\_
7. They told the **principal everything**. \_\_\_\_\_
8. He has given **Louise and Thomas detention** for a week. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Eloise never repeats **gossip**. \_\_\_\_\_
10. She speaks **truthfully**. \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Completing Transitive Verbs by Adding Direct Objects**

Add a direct object to each of these sentences.

1. Public service announcements give listeners \_\_\_\_\_ about various topics.
2. During blizzards, radio stations report \_\_\_\_\_.
3. They must verify their \_\_\_\_\_ before making their announcements.
4. Traffic announcers report \_\_\_\_\_ on the roads.
5. Photographers shoot \_\_\_\_\_ of unusual occurrences.
6. Sportscasters tell viewers \_\_\_\_\_ of the latest games.
7. Sometimes news bulletins interrupt \_\_\_\_\_.
8. During tornado alerts, viewers get \_\_\_\_\_ from local TV and radio stations.
9. A few hours after voting booths close, TV stations tell us \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Yesterday I watched \_\_\_\_\_ on the TV.

**Lesson**  
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# Action Verbs and Objects

## Application

### A. Changing Intransitive Verbs to Transitive Verbs by Adding Direct Objects

The verb in each sentence below is an intransitive verb, without a direct object. Rewrite the sentence, using the same subject and verb but changing the rest of the sentence to make the verb transitive. Underline both the verb and the direct object that you add.

**EXAMPLE** The clown juggled skillfully.

*The clown juggled six colored balls at one time.*

1. Elena paints well.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Hans studied for an hour.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Olive practiced earlier today.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. The boys will learn quickly.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. The late-comers watched from the back of the auditorium.

\_\_\_\_\_

### B. Using Direct and Indirect Objects and Transitive and Intransitive Verbs

Write a paragraph about hearing or telling a made-up story or presenting a factual report about true events. In the paragraph, use at least four terms from each box. Use the verbs as either transitive or intransitive verbs. Use the nouns and pronouns as direct or indirect objects. Underline each verb you use as a transitive verb.

Verbs			
told	reported	stated	called
spoke	learned	showed	helped
put	gave	taught	enjoyed

Nouns and Pronouns			
story	report	photo	girl
facts	event	news	boy
her	him	us	them

\_\_\_\_\_

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